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BOOK NOTES

Hindu mind training. By an ANGLO-SAXON MOTHER. With an introduction by S. M. Mitra. New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1917. 536 p.

The author's interest in this field dates back twenty years when the problem of her eldest son's education began to take practical shape. Since then she has looked into many Western systems, Rousseau, Herbart, Pestalozzi, Montessori, and found none of them satisfactory. Later she came in contact with the Hindu system of education, under the guidance of S. M. Mitra, and this impressed her as on the whole better than any other, and the volume is an attempt to describe this system in a concrete way. The method does not require much of any gradation for it is a method of stories which illustrate virtues or great central themes of human interest. The idea is to select from Hindu literature a story of high illustrative value, tell, and then discuss it. For instance, the first story is that of a commercial genius, the theme being business sagacity. The second is true love or false, the theme being experience as a teacher. Then follow ill-gotten gains, choice or luck, diplomatic success, self-mastery, fortune, love conquers death, health versus wealth, wasted labor, wifely devotion, fatal inadaptability, the use of knowledge, prosperity and adversity, self-observance, psychoanalysis, and finally a long article by Mitra himself.

Man's unconscious conflict; a popular exposition of psychoanalysis. By WILFRID LAY. New York, Dodd, Mead & Co., 1917. 318 p.

Wilfrid Lay, who is said to be a very successful secondary teacher of much experience who had himself found help in psychoanalysis, undertakes here to tell others what it means. To this end he discusses the unknown element in action, the Œdipus myth, the fore-conscious, the unconscious, descriptive unconscious, including symbolism, the censor, pleasure-pain versus reality, reality, regression, etc., the dynamic unconscious including craving reality, where thoughts come from, resistance, conflicts, complexes and phobias, and mental attitude, the individual psyche, dreams, two kinds of thinking (directed and undirected), every-day life, psychotherapy, and educational applications. The book is an interesting manual for the beginner and belongs perhaps in the class with books like White and Bjerre. The writer has a good insight into psychoanalysis and the first part of the book is remarkably lucid and popular, so that it would be almost impossible to miss its teaching. In the latter part he grows far less satisfactory. He betrays a good deal of interest in theories of the relation of the mind to the body, uses certain inapt phrases like "psychic gravitation." Some of his other attempts at modification or addition to the work of the experts we cannot pronounce happy.

The mythology of all races. Edited by LOUIS HERBERT GRAY. *Volume IX, Oceanic.* By ROLAND B. DIXON. 364 p. *Volume X, North American.* By HARTLEY BURR ALEXANDER. 325 p. Boston, Marshall Jones Co., 1916.

The writer of this notice has seen only a few volumes of this series. It is elaborately planned and has an able board of editors; the books

have an ideal, open and clean page, many illustrations, and form in general a good set of references and will prove not only convenient but indispensable for those who specialize in this topic. No single work, of course, can do justice to so vast a theme, and when we remember that Frazer alone has written over twenty volumes, we realize it would take a vast encyclopedia to cover all the ground. What is wanted is a finder that brings things out in true perspective and gives sufficient indication to literature to guide those who wish to specialize.

Our hidden forces; an experimental study of the psychic sciences. By ÉMILE BOIRAC. Trans. and edited with an introduction by W. de Kerlor. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co., (c. 1917). 302 p.

The author is said to have "given psychical research its passport to travel freely on the road of scientific progress." A problem of mighty import is what has become of the souls of millions of men killed on the battle-field. The author makes a number of experiments in telepathy to show the conductability of psychic force, describes what he calls cryptoidal phenomena, concludes thought is the hidden force, would revise animal magnetism, describes the study of our superliminal powers as the psychology of the future. He is able to provoke sleep at a distance and to produce what he calls transposition of the senses, and describes even the colors of human magnetism. He calls the disconnection of motor nerve force exteriorization or human radiations, and tells us how to study spirits scientifically.

Children's association frequency tables. By HERBERT WOODROW and FRANCES LOWELL. Psychological Monographs, vol. xxii, no. 5, 1916. 110 p.

This is an attempt to make a comparative study of the mental associations of children and adults. It is a study of the psychology of these two groups, made by means of association frequency tables from the responses of a thousand children from nine to twelve, to each of one hundred stimulus words, viz., those of Kent and Rosanoff, and therefore they can be compared with their adult frequency tables, so that conclusions can be drawn from a total of two thousand cases of association. A secondary object of this study was attained by comparing these tables with children to secure data that may serve as a standard in the studies of mental associations of individual children. This method might be used for comparing children of different schools. This study shows that in general children's associations differ enormously from those of adults, and the frequency of various types of association. Adults excel in contrast, superordination, part-whole, noun-abstract attribute, participles and cause-effect. Children excel in verbs, verb-object, noun-adjective, adjective-noun, pronoun, sound similarity, contiguity, whole-part, subordination and word compounding. With only 39% of the stimulus words is the most frequent response the same for both, and with only five words are the three most frequent responses the same. The frequency of the favorite or most frequent response is about the same for both groups. Children give fewer individual responses. They use less number of different words in responses to a given stimulus word. The adults give more of the children's response words than the children do of the adults'.

Standard method of testing juvenile mentality by the Binet-Simon scale with the original questions, pictures, and drawings. By NORBERT J. MELVILLE. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co. (c. 1917). 142 p.

This is a manual for examiners using the Binet-Simon scale of mental tests. It is especially valuable for its emphasis on a number of highly important points frequently neglected. No man has told us what tests to begin with, or which of two alternative questions should be first employed, or under what condition a test may be repeated, etc. In part two we have such a uniform method of tests worked out in detail.

Two studies in mental tests. I. Variable factors in the Binet tests. II. The diagnostic value of some mental tests. By CARL C. BRIGHAM. (Psychological Monographs, vol. xxiv, no. 1, 1917.) 254 p.

We have here a new and clever discussion of various mental tests, based on Binet, with special reference to their diagnostic values. The author seems very chary about drawing any conclusions, and is dissatisfied with the general disagreement and inconclusiveness of this work.

A scale of performance tests. By RUDOLF PINTNER and DONALD G. PATERSON. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1917. 218 p.

This book is an attempt to contribute to the few scales already in general use another kind of scale for the purpose of testing intelligence. The work grew directly out of the psychological examination of deaf children, for which purpose ordinary tests were practically useless. Hence these tests do not involve any kind of language response. The tests, fifteen in number, are first described, then their standardization, presentation of the data, the year scale, median mental age, point scale, percentile method, with illustrations at the close.

Mental adjustments. By FREDERICK LYMAN WELLS. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1917. 331 p.

The author discusses in these eight chapters the following topics: mental adaptation; use and waste in thought and conduct; symbolic association; the continuity of emotion; types of dissociation; mechanisms in dissociated ideas; experimental approaches; balancing factors.

Mental conflicts and misconduct. By WILLIAM HEALY. Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1917. 330 p.

The author attempts here to give the living facts that show the great value of understanding the foundation of conduct and misconduct. Conflicts are sometimes accompanied by obsessive imagery, they sometimes cause impelling ideas, some arise from sex experiences or secret knowledge, others result in stealing, running away, they may touch parenthood. The work is very largely a set of case records, and other than this the author makes little attempt to add to our knowledge or to our theory. The reviewer should add that when the author speaks of analysis he does not mean psychoanalysis in anything like the technical sense, nor would it even appear that in discussing conflict he fully realized the broader basis that Freudian analysis has given to this general subject.

The psychology of special abilities and disabilities. By AUGUSTA F. BRONNER. Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1917. 269 p.

With the increasing educational demands for recognition of the individual rather than of the mass, it is strange that no attempts have yet been made to formulate the problems of specialized abilities and dis-

abilities. Interest in defect has shed much light upon its different types. This author, however, here treats practical aspects, modes of attacking problem-cases, and presents types of special disabilities (a) in the normal, and (b) in the abnormal. Perhaps the best and most suggestive part of the book is the appendix, page 229, where the records and methods of psychological examination are given completely.

An introduction to social psychology. By CHARLES A. ELLWOOD. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1917. 343 p.

The psychological study of social life designates by far the most important part of modern sociology, and the author here attempts to study the bearings of modern psychological theories upon the problems of social organization and evolution. Some of the more important chapters are: social psychology and its relations and methods; organic and social evolution; human nature and society; the nature of social unity; the nature of social continuity; social change under normal and abnormal conditions; instinct and intelligence in the social life; imitation, suggestion, sympathy and consciousness of kind in the social life; social order, progress, and finally the nature of society.

Wellesley College studies in psychology, no. 2. Edited by ELEANOR A. MCC. GAMBLE. Psychological Monographs, vol. xxii, no. 4. October, 1916. 192 p.

This volume contains studies on the following topics: the qualitative relation between complementary and contrast colors; a study of spatial associations in learning and in recall; rate of repetition and tenacity of impression; the relative amounts of fatigue involved in memorizing by slow and by rapid repetition; a note on the use of the method of constants in experiments in intensive smell discrimination.

The adventure of death. By ROBERT W. MACKENNA. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1917. 197 p.

The purpose of this book is to show that death is not painful and that as a rule the most timid traveler divests himself of all fear when the shadow of the gateway looms over him. This is the conclusion of the author, who is a physician and is also that of his many colleagues with whom he has taught, as well as the available evidence of literature and history. It is especially appropriate in this war-time when death holds its high carnival. The author discusses not only the fear of death, its painlessness and euthanasia, and what it teaches life, but also in final chapters, whether death ends all. This question he answers in the negative if we rightly understand what death means.

A chemical sign of life. By SHIRO TASHIRO. Chicago, University of Chicago Press (c. 1917). 142 p.

This work attempts to apply facts discovered through the study of the physiology of the nerves to living processes generally, and the author thinks that in this mechanism culminates the most characteristic thing in life. He believes he has discovered its chemical accompaniment in nerve fibres. Despite its experimental basis, the work is highly speculative and the critical reader can hardly believe that he has discovered the true connection between irritability and metabolism, clever though his biometric work is.

The biology of twins (mammals). By HORATIO HACKETT NEWMAN. Chicago, University of Chicago Press (c. 1917). 185 p.

This volume brings together for the first time a mass of data on twins in man and other mammals. They are inherently interesting to many people and some light is shed on how twins "happen." The book ought to interest twins as well as biologists for the author discusses not only various kinds of human but animal twins. Perhaps especially interesting is the seventh chapter, on variations and heredity in twins.

The educational bearings of modern psychology. By CHRISTABEL M. MEREDITH. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., n. d. 143 p.

The topics are as follows: the nature of instincts; the modification of instincts (purposive action); the modification of instinct (mental growth); the growth of habits and sentiments; environment and suggestion; experiment in education; special studies in connection with memory; and special studies in connection with adolescence.

The spirit of the New Thought. Edited by HORATIO W. DRESSER. New York, T. Y. Crowell Co. (c. 1917). 297 p.

This is a volume of essays and addresses by representative authors in this subject: Henry Wood, Sarah Farmer, the editor, and some dozen others. New Thought seems to have become a kind of sect, in the interests of which these papers are republished. Together we believe that they give a pretty good idea of the modern phase of New Thought.

Cycles of personal belief. By WALDO EMERSON FORBES. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1917. 150 p.

The work is divided into four parts, namely, illusion, disillusion, reillusion and conclusion. The author discusses in general belief, the world, consciousness, axiomatic propositions, the will, ideas, time, law, unity, selection, and immortality.

How to develop your personality. By CLARE TREE MAJOR. New York, T. Y. Crowell Co. (c. 1916). 121 p.

This is a dramatic work dealing with various human qualities with reference to personality such as breathing, graded exercises, personality of the voice, its quality, what it betrays, poise, emotion, attitude to work, self-confidence, desires and ambitions. The author certainly treats her topics in a breezy way.

New Thought Christianized. By JAMES M. CAMPBELL. New York, T. Y. Crowell Co. (c. 1917). 152 p.

This is almost a kind of manual of twenty-one chapters.

The anti-prohibition manual; a summary of facts and figures dealing with prohibition. 1917. Cincinnati, Nat. Wholesale Liquor Dealers' Association of America. 121 p.

War and criminal anthropology. By ARTHUR MACDONALD. (Repr. from Congressional Record, Feb. 27 and March 15, 1917.) Washington, 1917. 40 p.

Success preparedness. By M. P. OLIVER. New York, T. Y. Crowell Co., (c. 1916). 103 p.